

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 AID-20 INR-10 /054 W

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R 041028Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7012

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

CSA WASHDC

CHIEF CORPS OF ENGINEERS WASHDC

S E C R E T CAIRO 3883

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA MILI

SUBJ: INVITATION TO CHIEF OF ENGINEERS TO

VISIT EGYPT

REF: DAO 0226 JUN 74

1. TALKED WITH SCA CHAIRMAN MASHHOUR AT ISMAILIA YESTERDAY ABOUT HIS INTEREST IN HAVING CHIEF OF ENGINEERS VISIT SUEZ CANAL . HE INDICATED FAHMY HAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH HIM AFTER MASHHOUR HAD FIRST RAISED THE SUBJECT WITH CAPTIAN SHEEHY OF NIMBUS STAR. (SHEEHY HAD PASSED INFORMATION TO DAO).

2. FAHMY HAD REMINDED MASHHOUR THAT, ON THE BASIS OF A PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE, HE WAS CHARGED WITH CLEARING ALL SENIOR MILITARY VISITS. HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO CHIEF OF ENGINEERS COMING, BUT IN VIEW OF HIS THREE STAR RANK, FAHMY THOUGHT HE SHOULD NOT COME IN UNIFORM. ALTERNATIVELY, HIS DEPUTY OR MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF COULD COME TO TALK WITH MASHHOUR AND HIS SCA ENGINEERS. HE HAD NO OBJECTIONS IF LOWER RANKING OFFICERS WERE IN UNIFORM.

3. MASHHOUR WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE HAD BEEN ADVISED BY A VISITING AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN WHO KNEW THE SECRET

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CHIEF OF ENGINEERS THAT THE LATTER WOULD LIKE TO

COME TO SEE THE SUEZ CANAL. THAT PROMPTED MASHHOUR
TO EXTEND THE INVITATION. MASHHOUR SAID THAT HE IS
PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS TO GET SOME GOE ADVICE IN
CONNECTION WITH LIFTING THE HEAVY BLOCKS WHICH THE
ISRAELIS EMPLACED TO CONSTRUCT THE DEVERSOIR
BARRAGE. WHILE THAT BARRAGE HAS NOW BEEN BREACHED,
PASSAGE REMAINS NARROW AND REMOVAL OF THE ISRAELI-
PLACED OBSTACLES IS A MAJOR ENGINEERING CHALLENGE.

4. SINCE GOE AT FAHMY LEVEL HAS APPROVED SUCH A
VISIT, I ALSO CONCUR IN IT. PROCEDURE INDICATED
USDAO REF MSG SEEMS A USEFUL WAY TO PROCEED.
EILTS

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NNN

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